SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

DEMOCRATS IN BORROWED PLUMAGE.

From the N. Y. Times. The World flies into a towering passion at the bare suggestion that the Democratic party, by following the lead of Vallandigham and Adams in their "new departure," would virtually surrender to the Republicans. Here is the way it repels the imputation: -

"It is falser than lying to say that the Democratic party thereby accepts and seeks to win power by the Republican doctrine. No; the Democratic party says of the Constitution as it is, no less than of the Constitution as it was, that the difference is as high as heaven and deep as hell which divides the Re-publican from the Democrat."

This, we suppose, is what the World considers strong writing, but, like most strong writing, it only betrays the weakness of the argumentative resources of the writer. Accerdingly, we find in the two columns and a half of dreary twaddle with which the World labors to sustain the above frantic declaration, nothing half so strong as the declaration itself. In spite of its special pleading, and its profuse extracts from the Constitution of the United States, the fact remains that the Democratic party, from the standpoint of its "new departure," is unable to present to the country any important principle or measure of general application to the whole people which is materially different from that entertained and advocated by the Republicans. Great stress is laid upon the Ku-klux bill, and even Mr. Adams is constrained, out of deference to his Democratic associates, to repeat the stale slang about the "crowning infamy" of this measure: but the Ku-klux bill was only rendered necessary because the Democratic party and their allies lately in rebellion refused to abide by the issues of the war. It is only a feature of that "hostile vigilance" which Mr. Adams truly says "the people will never resign until they know that no one of their war trophies is longer disputed." If the Democratic party is sincere in its "new departure," and proposes, in good faith, to "accept the situation" and "abide by the issues settled by the war," there will be no further need of the Ku-klux bill, and it will become inoperative and void.

As to the questions of tariff, paper currency, national banks, etc., these are not distinctive Republican measures. There are free-trade Republicans and free-trade Democrats, but neither the Republican nor the Democratic party would dare to go to the people on a free-trade platform pure and simple, nor would either dare to adopt an exclusive metallic currency as a party principle, or attempt to substitute the old State bank system in place of the present national banks. There are, in fact, no really important issues in which the whole people take an interest that divide the two parties to-day, except those growing out of the late rebellion; and if the Democratic party adopts the platform of Vallandigham and Adams, the next Presidential election will be a contest not for measures but for men, not for principles but for spoils. It will be a virtual surrender by the Democratic party of all the positions they have heretofore held, in order that they may be placed in a position where they can compete with their opponents in a general scramble for office. The very words-"new departure" - which the Democrats themselves give to the movement, imply that they have abandoned their old line of march and started on a new course, and one need only look at the finger-post which they have marked out for themselves to see that it points directly to the Republican camp. Indeed, the reasons given for a change of course are a free confession that the people would not follow the Democrats in the path they are now pursuing, and that their only chance of obtaining recruits consists in following the track of the Republican party. But they will be greatly mistaken, we apprehend, if they imagine that Republicans are going to desert their own ranks the moment they see the disorganized Democracy coming up in the rear. If the contest is to be simply one of men, no Republican is going to desert his own leader for any leader that is to be found in the Democratic party. They may adopt our principles, but they must not expect, just yet, to lead our armies. They must be content to ride, without asking to drive. When it comes to men, we entirely agree with the World that "the difference is high as Heaven and deep as Hell which divides the Republican from the Democrat." The people have experienced this difference in times past. It was fully illustrated in the contrast between last Democratic President, Buchanan, and the first Republican President, Lincoln. We have striking examples of it in this city-the headquarters of modern Democracy—as, for instance, the difference between "Boss" Tweed or "Dick" Connolly and a Republican, or any other honest man,

THE REVENGE OF OUTRAGED NA TURE.

From the N. Y. Sun.

Vice-President Colfax was seized with vertigo on Monday in the Senate Chamber, owing, as it was said, to the heat and bad air of the room. But as none of the other occupants of the same room were similarly affected, the cause of his sickness must also be attributed in great measure to the previous condition of his health. Had he not been already prepared for the seizure, the circum-

stances in which he was placed would not

have occasioned it.

Mr. Colfax, though strictly abstinent from alcoholic drinks, has long been a great drinker of tea and coffee, and an excessive smoker of tobacco. The morning of the day on which he was prostrated he had smoked five or six strong cigars on an almost empty stomach, and had been incessantly busy writing letters. The treacherous ally on which he had hitherto relied to supply a physical energy which had been denied him gave way at last, and outraged nature took her revenge. Mr. Colfax falling from his chair is as awful a warning

against the excessive use of narcotics as a drunkard with the delirium tremens is against the excessive use of alcohol.

It is to be hoped that the press and the pulpit, and every one who has the responsi-bility resting upon him of directing the opinions or conduct of others, will not fail to perceive and insist upon the lesson which Mr. Colfax's unhappy case teaches. There is plenty of denunciation of drunkenness, but against the abuse of narcotics far too little is said. Let our youth, especially, who think it so fine to smoke big cigars and toss off their cups of strong coffee, consider what they are preparing for themselves, and learn that it is their duty to be temperate in all things, and not in the use of alcoholic drinks alone. Let, too, the preachers of total abstinence from alcohol learn that the objects of their reprobation are not the only ones who deserve it, and give heed to the fact that the

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OUR JURY SYSTEM. From the N. Y. Standard,

We are always reluctant to criticize venerable errors. It looks like presumption and is revolutionary in tendency. To question "the wisdom of the fathers" is a young American privilege, however, of which we hesitatingly avail ourselves.

Here has the Foster case been dragging itself along through a wearisome week, just because the superior intelligence of our citizens unfits them for jurors. This is a high compliment to our citizens, but a satire upon the administration of justice. We have already ventured to suggest that the fact of having read the newspapers was not suffi-cient disqualification. There is one other method, perhaps, of avoiding the difficul-ties which beset our criminal lawyers, if this one will not do; and they still desire jurymen that have not entertained either "ideas, impressions, or opinions" upon the subject. We can borrow a remedy from China. We have already borrowed a good many things from the Celestial Empire. Without her we should never have had our two "Hysons," printing, fire-crackers, and a "Heathen Chinee," and doubtless we may now trespass upon her generosity for an example. In China the administration of local or provincial government and law is an itinerant one. No mandarin, from the lowest to the highest, can remain but a short time in one position. He is kept moving lest he become too well acquainted with the affairs which he is expected to administer. Likewise, no mandarin is allowed to govern in his own native section. Indeed, the Chinese have carried this principle so far that they have borrowed an imperial dynasty from

Why not ingraft this principle upon our system of trial by jury? When counsel are pressed for a lack of ignorance they might send to another State for jury material. The remoteness of the locality whence the jurors are drawn might increase or diminish in proportion to the more or less aggravated nature of the crime. In a moderate case we might send into an adjoining county, or in an atrocious one, like that of Foster, some distant State might honor our draft. It should be provided, however, that no counsel should be compelled to accept juries from New Jersey, or Colorado, or, perhaps, California, on account of the peculiar prejudice that exists in those localities in respect to thieves and

In this way we might get jurors who had not heard of the special case under consideration, yet who bad ordinary intelligence upon general subjects. We could point to other possible advantages-of a minor character, however-that might result from this amendment to our jury law. The lion of Paritanism and the lamb of toleration, by a free interchange of jurors, might arrive at a healthful and common conclusion upon the subject of crime and its punishment. Chicago and Boston, New York and San Francisco, might affiliate in this way; and from crime to "marriage and divorce" and other grave and perplexing social problems, the step would be an easy one, With a community of sentiment thus brought about between the extremes of our country, we should soon have a state of things full of millennial suggestions.

Seriously, however, in our present jury system, as applied to civil practice, there are some defects that demand a remedy. The "right of trial by jury," secured by the Magna Chartain England, and adopted in our own Constitution. right. And it is very well that a person to be tried for crime should have every safeguard thrown around his possible innocence. Our jurisprudence assumes that a man is innocent till proven guilty. But in civil actions, where the contest is between man and man, and not between one man and the whole people, it seems proper that the parties should meet upon more equal footing than at present. A plaintiff comes into court under great disadvantages. No matter how great the merit of his case, or the degree of his injury, he has to gain the positive judgment in his behalf of twelve men. If his opponent gets one dissenting voice, the plain-tiff's case goes overboard. If his cause were tried before a bench of judges, he would require only a majority. But with a jury of laymen, taken from various stations of life, he requires a unanimous verdict to succeed. The plaintiff has but one chance to eleven. He runs the gauntlet, and has overwhelming odds against him. No mistake of a jury can be remedied on appeal. The erroneous decision of a judge is subject to appeal and reversal. A single juror may be controlled by false sophistry or evil motives, and there is no redress.

The jury law was founded apparently upon the theory that all men are sensible as well as honest, and that they reason alike. But it is a common remark among lawyers that an average jury, in an ordinary case, is controlled in its decision by one or two of its members. An able sophist, by false reasoning, may bring over a whole jury to concur-rence. Or, on the other hand, narrowminded men may form an opinion, adhere to it with unyielding tenacity, and defeat the ends of justice. Generally a majority adopt a certain view of the case, and one by one the dissenters come over, till at last there is an agreement and a verdict. It is often a question of mere obstinacy and endurance.

There is one right left to the plaintiff la-boring against so many odds, which is a par-tial relief to the hardships of the law. If one jury fail to agree, he can, after the usual delay, go into court and try it again. If he believes that the first suit was lost by reason of dishonesty in the jury, he may encourage himself with the proverb that "lightning never strikes twice in the same spot"-that is, until he prove whether it applies to his

-The remedy which we propose for all this is, to make a specified majority—say two-thirds-sufficient to render a verdict. Litigation will be full enough of uncertainties, even with this amendment, and, while lawyers will still have enough to do, the change will greatly benefit the peaple.

THE LATE BOILER EXPLOSION. From the Baltimore American,

The bursting of the boiler of the Alpha steam fire engine on Monday morning, and the sad calamity that overtook Mr. Weaver, has once more aroused the people of the city te a sense of the danger to which they are constantly exposed by the use of steam boilers. They are a necessity to civilization, without which the great industries of the age cannot be prosecuted; but a certain percentage of risk appears to inevitably attend their use, against which no ordinary prudence can provide. The whole theory of boiler explosions appears to be involved in inexplicable mystery. In the late celebrated case of Pindell against Stirling & Ahrens, tried in the Suparior Court of Baltimore city, before Judge Dobbin, intelligent engineers were examined as experts, and they differed greatly in their opinions and conclusions as to the immediate first remedy administered to Mr. Colfax was a causes that induce the rupture of a boiler, glass of brandy. Captain Wheeler, an engineer in the United Captain Wheeler, an engineer in the United

States revenue service, gave the generally received theory, but other engineers of equal eminence differed from his conclusions in toto. A synopsis of Captain Wheeler's testimony appeared in the American at the time it was given, and embodied about all that the experiments of men of science have given us on this subject. It amounted about to this: - When the water is allowed to get low in the boiler the plates become red hot, and the tensile power of the iron is greatly diminished. When the cold water is turned into the boiler, the instant it touches the heated surface it assumes the spheroidal state, and dances about in little globules until the temperature is reduced to a certain degree, when suddenly the globules burst and the whole mass is converted into super-heated steam, the expansive power of which is immense. The sudden impingement of this mass of steam upon the plates, already weakened by overheating, fractures the iron, and an explosion is the result. This is a plain statement of the principal points, without any pretension to scientific accuracy.

Now, if the Alpha was in any way delayed,

and did not get to work for a considerable time after her furnace was kindled, and if she exploded a few minutes after her feed pipe was attached to the water plug, the rupture of her boiler can be accounted for on the above theory. We are not advised as to these facts, but they will doubtless be developed before the Coroner's jury. If it should appear from the testi-timony, however, that she had been at work, say, ten or fifteen minutes before the explosion, then the cause will have to be looked for in some defect in the construction of the boiler, or some weakening of important parts by long use.

Upon the first hypothesis the explosion would appear to strengthen the generally received theory. The boiler is filled with water when it starts from the engine-house; steam is generated until a certain pressure is reached, and then it escapes. In the meantime, the water becomes low in the boiler, and the interior plates become very hot. When the sucking tube is attached to the plug the cold water is poured down into the cavity between the exterior and interior shells; the plates of the interior shell next the fire are very hot, their tensile power greatly diminished, and when the sudden burst of super-heated steam comes against the plates they are ruptured.

The fact that the screw bolts were pulled from the holes without an apparent breaking of the threads, and that two sides of the interior shell are rolled up without any fracture of the iron except where the main rupture is, would seem to indicate that the plate was very

Of all boilers those attached to steam fire engines ought to be constructed and handled with the greatest care. Every time they are put in action a great crowd gathers around them, and an explosion puts many lives in peril. In this case it seems marvellous that only one man was killed.

THE AMERICAN NOVEL.

From the N. Y. Tribune. Mr. Anthony Trollope has announced his intention of coming to the United States, in order to make new studies of character for a forthcoming novel, which is but a fair warning to each of his hospitable entertainers to retrain from indulging in any of our ineradicable national habits while Mr. Trollope's keen eye is upon him across the table. For gentleman, Mr. already noted in one of his books, rises to "orate" between each mouthful of potato, and squirts tobacco-juice between each glas of champagne. The American young lady. even when she is possessed of money and culture sufficient to entitle her to marry into the British peerage, cannot conquer her habits of "orating" also, and addressing her lady friends familiarly as "You ass." Can we not convince this acute observer of character that there are exceptions among us to even these general rules? We wait with anxiety the result of Mr. Trollope's adventure into a new world. Brother Jonathan has come to be a favorite figure in foreign novels and plays of late. His likeness is easily taken, the features being so few and marked. He is of necessity either the wellknown lean Sam Slick, with his trowsers half-way up his leg and jack-knife in hand, or Slick in middle age, grown rich and a Congressman, dangling ponderous seals over a paunchy black satin waistcoat, but still adhering (as all Americans will) to his "I swow," and "Du tell," and "I vum to man." "An American novel," we are informed by the Saturday Review and other satisfactory

English authorities, "is an impossibility. All men in that land of progress are alike; everybody wears the same clothes, talks the same dialect, and rides in the same cars. We might ignorantly have fancied that an accretion of people from every country under heaven, brought under new influences in a sweep of continent so broad that England would form but one of the counties in a Western State, might present some dramatic or picturesque points. But it appears we are mistaken. The old typical Slick, like Aaron's serpent, still swallows all the test. "There is not to be found," we are assured, "that range of caste and character and incident which British society offers, and which are portrayed in Trollope's novels. The only opening for fic-tion in America is in the class of didactic tales which dwell upon the miseries of mill-hands and miners." Every view of the subject, therefore, appears to be grave, and depressing te our national literary ambition. Seriously, the excess of material lying on the surface of society, which awaits the hand of the artist in this country, is not available to a workman like Trollope, from the very glaring contrasts of light and shadow, and the variety of character, requiring bolder and more effective treatment than he is able to give. The charm of his books lies in the fact that he knows but half-a-dozen characters, but knows them thoroughly, and paints them over and over again in each new novel with Flemish minuteness. A cursory, swift glance over this country, with the notes he will take in the cars, or at Washington and New York dinner-tables, will hardly enable him to reproduce in American costume his bluff Yorkshire squire, his natty and vicious young man, and sweet, obstinate young woman, clinging desperately to her one sensual idea

It will be better for American fiction, however, when it, measurably at least, adopts the Trollope school of art; when the novelist, instead of using his dramatis persona as characterless puppets to embody or preach his favorite dogmas, or harrow the reader's soul by mysteries and murders most foul, simply contents himself with photographing the people and scenes about him. Mere re-production is certainly legitimate art, if not the highest; and it assuredly is the most successful. What service Holmes has rendered in this way to New England, Bayard Taylor has given to Pennsylvania, Harte to California, and De Forest, almost unnoticed, is now bringing back the South as it was

before our recollection with a few powerful but inimitable touches. But these attempts are but few and meagre when we remember the great unpictured range of character and incident which yet awaits the limner's hand in the older, more retired regions of the country, where society has had time and solitude to crystallize into unusual and obstinate forms. But the artist who will develop these must be a man who has grown with and out of them; not a foreigner, posting express from New York to New Orleans making sketches on his thumb-nail of scenery and character for future reference.

SPECIAL NOTICES. PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, May 2, 1871. The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of FIVE PER CENT. on the capital stock of the Company, clear of National and State taxes, payable in cash, on and after May 30, 1871.

Blank powers of attorney for collecting dividends can be had at the office of the company.

The office will be open at 8 A. M., and close at P. M., from May 30 to June 2, for the payment of dividends, and after that date from 9 A. M. to 3 THOMAS T. FIRTH, Treasurer. 5 9 2m

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, SEWERS, ETC. OFFICE OF CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

NO. 104 S. Firth Street,
PHILADELPHIA, May 9, 1871.)
NOTICE.—Owners of Hacks and Carriages kept
for hire are notified that they must renew their
Licenses on or before the 1st of June, 1871. The penalty for neglect is five dollars for each time the vehicle is used after that date, and will be strictly enforced.

5 11thstu 6t

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J. & L. L. BARRICK'S LEGITIMATE Tailoring Establishment, No. 41 S. TENTH Street, where you can get the best suit for the least money. Where, furnishing your own material you can have it made and trimmed exactly right. Price, fit, and workmanship guaranteed. A good stock always on hand, to show which is no trouble, and to sell the same at rates not to be excelled is our highest ambition.

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REAL ESTATE AT AUGTION.

and all kinds of Millinery Goods.

EXECUTORS ' SALE .- THOMAS & SONS Auctioneers.—Elegant Double Four-story Brick Residence, southeast corner of Twentieth and Arch streets, 40 feet front, 150 feet deep. On Tuesday, May 30, 1871, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at pub-lic sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all that very elegant double four-story messuage, with three-stor, back buildings and lot of ground, situate at the southeast corner of Twentieth and Arch streets (No. 1986); the lot containing in front on Arch street (No. 1988); the lot containing in front on Arch street 40 feet, and extending in depth 150 feet to Cuthbert street. It is press-brick front, with brown stone trimmings; well built and finished with all the modern improvements and conveniences; has large modern improvements and conveniences; has large hall, 7 feet wide and well ventilated, parlor, recep-tion roem, dining room, 2 kitchens and laundry on the first ficer; 4 chambers and library on the second floor; 6 rooms on the third, and 5 rooms on the fourth; stationary washstands, marble mantels, bell calls, gas, etc. There are 2 bath rooms, hot and cold water, and water closets on second and third floors; furnsec, cooking range, etc. Terms, half cash and half mortgage. May be examined on application to L. H. Redner, Esq., No. 731 Wainut street, or the auctioneers. Possession in thirty days.

M. THOMAS & SONS, Auctioneers, 5 23 25 27 Nos. 189 and 141 S. FOURTH Street.

REAL ESTATE-THOMAS & SONS' SALE. —Modern three-story brick Dwelling, No. 1497 Reed street, west of Broad street. On Tuesday, Reed street, west of Broad street. On Tuesday, May 30, 1871, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all that modern three-story press-brick front messuage, with two-story back building and lot of ground, situate on north side of Reed street, west of Broad street, No. 1467; containing in front on Reed street 18 feet, and extending in depth 80 feet to a 6-feet wide alley, with the privilege thereof. The house is in good repair; has parior, dining-room, and kitchen on the great floor: 2 chambers, sitting-room, store-room, and first floor; 2 chambers, sitting-room, store-room, and bath-room on the second floor; hot and cold water, cooking-range, etc. Terms—\$2950 may remain on mortgage. Immediate possession. May be ex-

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Together with a full supply of Brandies, Whiskies,
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Vice-President Sc. C. RR. Co. 3

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S RE-GULAR SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO NEW OR-LEANS, La.

The YAZOO will sail for New Orleans, via Ha

The YAZOO will sail for New Orleans, via Havana, on Thursday, May 25th, at S A. M.

The JUNIATA will sail from New Orleans, via Bavana, on Friday, May 26

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING at as low rates as by any other route given to MOBILE, GALVESTON, INDIANOLA, ROCKPORT, LAVACCA, and BRAZOS, and to all points en the Mississippi river between New Orleans and St. Louis. Red river freights reshipped at New Orleans without charge of commissions.

WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA. The WYOMING will sail for Savannah on Sat-urday, May 27, at 8 A. M. The TONAWANLA will sail from Savannah on

The TONAWAYDA will sail from Savannan on Saturday, May 27.

THROUGH BILLS OV LADING given to all the principal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Railroad of Georgia, Atantic and Gulf Railroad, and Florida steamers, at the contral railroad of Georgia, Atantic and Gulf Railroad, and Florida steamers, at aslow rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C. SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C.
The rIONEER will sail for Wilmington, N. C., on
Thurstay, may 25, at 6 A. M. Returning, will leave
Wilmington Thursday, June 1st.
Connects with the Cape Fear River Steamboat
Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North
Carolina Railroads, and the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad to all interior points.
Freights for Columbia, S. C., and Augusta, Ga.,
taken via Wilmington at as low rates as by any
other route.

taken via withings.

other route.

Insurance effected when requested by shippers.
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No charge for commissions, drayage, or any expense of transfer. Steamships insure at lowest

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PHILADELPHIA and CHARLESTON

STEAMSHIP LINE.
THURSDAY LINE FOR CHARLESTON. The first-class Steamship EMPIRE, Captair Hinckley, will sail on Thursday, May 25, at 12 P. M., noon, from Pier 8, North Wharves, above Arch street.

Through bills of lading to all principal points in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, etc., etc., Rates of freight as low as by any other route.

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The CHEAPEST and QUICKEST water communication between Philadelphia and New York.
Steamers leave DAILY from first wharf below MARKET Street, Philadelphia, and foot of WALL Street. New York.

THROUGH IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

Goods forwarded by all the lines running out of New York, North, East, and West, free of commis-Freight received daily and forwarded on accom-

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Steamers leave regularly every SATURDAY at noon, from First Wharf above MARKET Street. Freights received daily.

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Through in twenty four hours.

tis M, and 5 P, M.
Through in twenty-four hours.
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